

What to do if people are exposed to blood or body fluids:

1. Flush the area with copious running water and then wash with soap and warm water. If the eyes are contaminated rinse while open with tap water or saline. If the mouth is contaminated spit, then repeatedly rinse with water.
2. Visit your emergency department or local GP promptly so that an assessment of risk of infection, preventative treatment and follow up can be completed
3. Thoroughly clean any spills of blood or body fluids to protect others.

How to clean a spill or blood or body fluid:

1. Put gloves on. Wear gloves at all times when handling blood or body fluid, soiled material or touching the broken skin. Gloves should be changed and disposed when moving from one task to another;
2. Take care to prevent blood and other body fluids splashing on to the eyes mouth or nose;
3. Apply absorbent paper or kitty litter to soak up the spill;
4. Discard absorbed substance in two plastic bags as described earlier;

5. Clean surface with hot or warm water. However, when cleaning blood use cold water because hot water will make it stick to the surface;
6. Cover area with freshly prepared disinfectant for ten minutes. Use one part hospital grade bleach to ten parts water. Always use freshly prepared disinfectant and do not mix different solutions;
7. Wipe and dry area with paper towels;
8. Remove gloves and dispose with paper towels and other cleaning materials in two plastic bags as described earlier;
9. Wash hands thoroughly.

Further Information

Further information is available from the Department by visiting:
www.dpi.wa.gov.au/taxis
or by contacting Passenger Service officers on (08) 9216 8101.



Taxi Driver Guidelines

Protection from Infection



November 2004

Protection from Infection

To minimise the risk of infection to taxi drivers and their passengers the Department for Planning and Infrastructure has produced these simple guidelines for drivers to help limit the transfer of infection.

Key action to protect from infection

- Maintain good personal hygiene
- Keep your taxi clean
- Ensure immunisations are up-to-date
- Take the recommended additional precautions

Maintain good personal hygiene

In addition to ensuring you are always clean, neat and well groomed there are a number of other preventative measures that can be taken:

- Wash your hands with soap and water for at least 15 seconds immediately after using the toilet, before preparing or eating food, if you have contact with blood or body fluid and after you have cleaned your taxi. If soap and water are not available use 70 per cent alcohol gel which can be purchased at pharmacies;

- Keep your hands away from your mouth, nose and eyes. When sneezing or coughing use tissues to cover and wipe your mouth, nose and eyes;
- Check your hands for breaks in the skin each day and cover any wounds with a waterproof dressing. Keep your skin healthy with regular use of moisturising cream.

Keep your taxi clean

Always keep your taxi clean and free of rubbish using the following suggestions:

- Routinely clean your taxi using hot or warm water and detergent;
- To clean up any blood or body spills in the taxi keep a small pack or container on hand with the following items –

disposable gloves
2 litres of water detergent or liquid soap
paper towels
2 plastic bags
kitty litter for absorbing spills
eye protection
disinfectant
- Dispose of any blood or body substances and items used for cleaning up a spill using two plastic bags. Place the rubbish in the first bag, tie and then place it in to a second plastic bag, tie firmly and dispose in a rubbish bin;

- Consider keeping a small needle and syringe disposal container locked in the glove box for disposal of needles, syringes and other sharp items found in the vehicle. The units can be purchased from and disposed of through medical waste disposal providers in Perth and are listed in the Yellow Pages. Rural drivers can seek information on these units from their local government's environmental health officer.

Take additional precautions

Infections can be present without any visible signs or symptoms. The Department recommends you take these additional precautions to protect yourself and your passengers from infection:

- Ensure immunisations are up-to-date and talk to your doctor about available vaccinations;
- Offer tissues to passengers to cover their nose and mouth if they are coughing or sneezing. Direct fresh air on to your face using the vents or a window to prevent inhaling air-borne droplets;
- Avoid direct contact with blood and body fluids particularly to the eyes, mouth, nose and broken skin. Sharing drinks, food and cigarettes is also not recommended.